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Forty-eighth session
FIRST COMMITTEE
Agenda item 73 (b)

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS TENTH SPECIAL SESSION: REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

Letter dated 2 November 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a letter dated 1 November 1993 from H.E. Olexandre Slipchenko, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Head of the delegation of Ukraine at the 1993 session of the Conference on Disarmament addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament.

I would be grateful if you could make arrangements to have this letter and the attached document circulated as a document of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly under agenda item 73 (b).

(Signed) Victor H. BATIOUK

Annex

Letter dated 1 November 1993 from the Head of the delegation of Ukraine at the 1993 session of the Conference on Disarmament addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament

The delegation of Ukraine to the Conference on Disarmament is deeply concerned with the increased incidence of this highly esteemed international forum being used by the delegation of the Russian Federation for furthering polemics on the matters pertaining to the Ukrainian-Russian bilateral negotiations on nuclear disarmament, which take place outside the framework of the Conference. The tone of discourse and the manner of action deliberately chosen by the Russian delegation runs contrary to the tradition of constructive debate at the Conference on Disarmament.

This was the case with the publication, on behalf of the Russian delegation, of the text of two agreements signed by the Governments of Ukraine and the Russian Federation, "On the utilization of the nuclear warheads" and "Basic principles of the utilization of the nuclear warheads of strategic nuclear forces located in Ukraine", issued as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament (CD/1225).

These documents have been submitted to the secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament by the Russian delegation unilaterally, without prior official consent of the Ukrainian side. This does not correspond to the usual practice of the United Nations and other international organizations in relation to the official publication of the documents of a multilateral character concerning the interests of more than one party.

I would be most grateful if you could find an appropriate way of conveying the content of this letter to the member States and non-member States participating in the work of the Conference on Disarmament.

(Signed) Olexandre SLIPCHENKO
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Head of the delegation of Ukraine at the 1993
session of the Conference on Disarmament

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Forty-eighth session
FIRST COMMITTEE
Agenda item 71

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Letter from the Permanent Representatives of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Joint Declaration of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan on the Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction and Their Delivery Systems, adopted at a meeting of the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Commonwealth of Independent States on 25 August 1993 (see annex).

We should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly under agenda item 71, entitled "General and complete disarmament".

(Signed) A. ARZOUMANIAN
Permanent Representative of
the Republic of Armenia to
the United Nations

(Signed) G. BURAVKIN
Permanent Representative of
the Republic of Belarus to
the United Nations

(Signed) A. ARYSTANBEKOVA
Permanent Representative of
the Republic of Kazakhstan to
the United Nations

(Signed) F. PANTIRU
Permanent Representative of
the Republic of Moldova to
the United Nations

(Signed) L. KAYUMOV
Permanent Representative of
the Republic of Tajikistan to
the United Nations

(Signed) I. MUKHAMEDOV
for the Republic of Uzbekistan

(Signed) Ya. ALIYEV
Permanent Representative of
the Azerbaijani Republic to
the United Nations

(Signed) P. CHKHEIDZE
Permanent Representative of
the Republic of Georgia to
the United Nations

(Signed) D. ATABEKOV
Permanent Representative of
the Kyrgyz Republic to
the United Nations

(Signed) Y. VORONTSOV
Permanent Representative of
the Russian Federation to
the United Nations

(Signed) A. RAKHMANOV
Permanent Representative of
Turkmenistan to the
United Nations

Annex

JOINT DECLARATION OF ARMENIA, AZERBAIJAN, BELARUS, GEORGIA, KAZAKHSTAN, KYRGYZSTAN, THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, TAJIKISTAN, TURKMENISTAN AND UZBEKISTAN ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION AND THEIR DELIVERY SYSTEMS

The Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Georgia, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan share the profound concern of the international community at the possibility of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems, and reaffirm their steadfast determination to ensure the non-proliferation of such weapons and systems. The commitments to that end established in the instruments adopted by the Commonwealth of Independent States reflect its members' acceptance of their responsibility in this area. The States which have adopted this Declaration shall do everything in their power to ensure that the danger of the proliferation of nuclear weapons and other types of weapons of mass destruction, as well as of their delivery systems, does not arise in the territories of their countries.

The States which have adopted this Declaration note with concern that the waning of the threat of a global nuclear catastrophe is being accompanied by the escalation of conflicts at a regional level. In circumstances where scientific and technological advances are bringing weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems within the reach of an increasing number of countries, the danger of their use in regional conflicts and the involvement in those conflicts of Powers outside the region is vastly increased. Aware of this danger, the States which have adopted this instrument declare their support for the decisions reached by the United Nations Security Council at its meeting on 31 January 1992, particularly its view that "the proliferation of all weapons of mass destruction constitutes a threat to international peace and security", and their belief that the task of non-proliferation in all its aspects must remain the focus of attention of the Security Council as the organ which, under the Charter of the United Nations, has "primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security". They express their readiness to contribute to efforts by the international community to strengthen the existing non-proliferation regimes.

The States which have adopted this Declaration have a high regard for the role played by the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in restraining the proliferation of nuclear weapons, and believe that efforts to strengthen the Treaty and to achieve universal adherence are in the interests of all the States of the world. They support the succession of the Russian Federation to the former USSR in respect of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and note that the Republic of Armenia, the Azerbaijani Republic, the Republic of Belarus and the Republic of Uzbekistan have become parties to the Treaty. The States which have not yet acceded to the Treaty as non-nuclear States declare their readiness to do so and to place their nuclear activities under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards. The States

which have adopted this Declaration intend to promote the speedy and unconditional extension of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in 1995.

These States also support the goals of chemical and biological disarmament, the 1972 Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, opened for signature on 13 January 1993.

Remaining fully cognizant of the need to ensure strict control over the export of materials and technologies which could be used for the production of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems, the States which have adopted this Declaration are prepared to cooperate with one another and with other members of the international community in efforts to create in their territories an effective system for such control and for the adoption of the corresponding legislative acts. In this context, they declare their readiness, once the necessary domestic procedures have been completed, to participate, as full members, in the existing regimes in the area of export controls.

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RATIONALIZATION OF THE WORK AND REFORM OF THE AGENDA OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

Working paper by the Chairman

In the course of his consultations on agenda item 156, the Chairman of the First Committee circulated a note dated 3 November 1993 with a view to providing an illustration of a comprehensive approach to the rationalization, revitalization and reform of the First Committee. As indicated therein, the illustrative comprehensive approach was not put forward for further action. It contains suggestions not dealt with in the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/48/L.51, of 12 November 1993.

The Chairman's note referred to above is hereby submitted as a working paper for further consideration by the Committee.

Chairman's note

Agenda item 156: Rationalization of the work and reform of the agenda of the First Committee

The attached "Illustrative Draft Resolution" is not put forward for further action at the present stage. Rather, it is intended to illustrate how a comprehensive approach on the three "Rs" rationalization, revitalization and reform could be translated into a resolution's language if the time were ripe for such an undertaking.

Presently, we have to focus on the first and crucial step: rationalization of the work of the First Committee. Success is at hand with the merger of the relevant drafts. But in the longer run, for the reasons set forth in the Chairman's statements of 18 and 29 October, the First Committee should not restrict the conceptual deliberations on its future work to questions of rationalization only. The more effectively the Committee rationalizes its work, the stronger seems to be the argument that its traditional agenda does not fully reflect any more today's challenges for global disarmament and international security - and that "rationalization only" might coincide with the Committee gradually fading into the twilight of diminished political relevance.

However, time does not seem ripe yet to address the broader questions of reform comprehensively and formally with a resolution. As time moves on, the question of reform will impress itself more firmly on the Committee's agenda. To offer some "food for thought" on how to tackle the issue then, the Chair thought it useful to share an illustration of his ideas with delegations already now, even though time for action on the comprehensive approach might not have arrived yet.

Illustrative draft resolution

(for brain-storming purposes only)

Indications of origin of the language used:

(NAM pp/op ..) - NAM's non-paper of 27 October 1993

(RUSSIA pp/op ..) - Russian draft on "maintenance of international security" of 28 October 1993

(NEPAL pp/op ..) - Nepal's draft on the United Nations regional centres of 2 November 1993

(TWELVE) - Non-paper of the twelve member States of the European Community of 20 October 1993

(NAM 47/60 A pp/op ..) - General Assembly resolution 47/60 A

The General Assembly,

(1) Mindful that the United Nations has a central role and primary responsibility in the sphere of disarmament, (NAM pp 1)

(2) Recalling the Final Document of its tenth special session, the first devoted exclusively to disarmament, (NAM pp 2)

(3) Keeping in mind the priorities in disarmament negotiations as set out in that Final Document, (cf. NAM pp 3)

(4) Encouraged by the changed political climate in the post-cold war era and aware of the need to adjust the work of the United Nations to reflect this more adequately,

(5) Bearing in mind that the changed international environment has created new opportunities for the pursuit of disarmament, as well as posed new challenges, (Nepal pp 4, cf. Russia pp 3)

(6) Expressing the hope that the positive trends that started in Europe, where a new system of security and cooperation is being built through the process of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, will continue and will encourage similar trends in other parts of the world, (NAM 47/60 A pp 6)

(7) Expressing also its serious concern over new threats to international peace and security, the persistence of tensions in some regions and the emergence of new conflicts, (Russia pp 4)

(8) Stressing the growing importance of the relationship between disarmament and development, (cf. NAM 47/60 A pp 9)

(9) Noting with appreciation the Secretary-General's ideas and proposals aimed at enhancing the United Nations potential role in the area of preventive

diplomacy, peacemaking, peace-keeping and post-conflict peace-building, as well as in multilateral disarmament, contained in his reports entitled "An Agenda for Peace" and "New Dimensions of Arms Regulation and Disarmament in the Post-Cold War Era", (Russia pp 5)

(10) Recognizing that the time has come for the practical integration of disarmament and arms regulation issues into the broader structure of the international peace and security agenda,

(11) Recalling the ongoing efforts of the General Assembly aimed at revitalizing its work and noting its resolution 47/233, of 17 August 1993, (NAM pp 5)

(12) Recalling also its resolution 47/54 G, of 8 April 1993, which addressed primarily procedural questions of the multilateral arms control and disarmament machinery, (cf. NAM pp 6)

(13) Recognizing the need also to address new substantive challenges within its area of responsibility,

(14) Determined to make better use of its role in accordance with the Charter in dealing with topics of arms regulation, disarmament and international security,

1. Stresses the importance of its role in disarmament and international security questions; (NAM op 1)

2. Advises the Disarmament and International Security Committee as follows:

I. Rationalization of the work of the First Committee

(TWELVE)

(1) Recalling paragraph 2 of resolution 47/54 G requesting the Chairman of the First Committee to continue consultations on the further rationalization of the work and the effective functioning of the Committee, taking into account all the views and proposals presented to the First Committee, including those related to the thematic clustering of agenda items,

(2) Taking note of the findings of the Chairman of the First Committee during the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly with regard to views and proposals presented related to the rationalization of the work of the First Committee,

(3) Having considered the views expressed by Member States at the resumed session of the First Committee on the question of the rationalization of the work of the First Committee, including on agenda reform,

(4) Taking note in this regard of the working papers on this item of 8 and 9 March 1993,

(5) Noting the continuing review regarding the allocation of agenda items to the Main Committees of the General Assembly,

(6) Welcoming that the international situation has enhanced the prospects for disarmament and arms regulation, which is conducive to further bilateral, regional and multilateral efforts in disarmament,

(7) Stressing the need for the multilateral arms control and disarmament machinery to respond effectively to the new multifaceted realities of international security,

(8) Desiring to enhance the effective functioning of the multilateral disarmament machinery,

(9) Encouraged by the efforts undertaken by the Secretary-General in strengthening the Secretariat's capabilities to enable it to discharge its tasks effectively,

(10) Continuing to stress the need to further review the role and resources of the Centre for Disarmament Affairs in order to strengthen its effective functioning,

1. Decides that, as a first step, the rationalization of the Committee would be encouraged by a decision to:

- integrate the issues of disarmament and international security,
- restructure and streamline the agenda of the First Committee and reduce the number of draft resolutions,
- review yearly the time and resources allotted to the work of the First Committee,
- convene special meetings of the First Committee when the need arises in accordance with Article 20 of the Charter of the United Nations;

2. Decides also, in relation to the restructuring and streamlining of the agenda, to adopt a thematic approach whereby items are clustered around a limited number of "head items":

- Nuclear weapons
- Other weapons of mass destruction
- Conventional weapons
- Transparency/confidence-building
- Regional disarmament and security
- Outer space
- Disarmament machinery

- International security

- Related matters of disarmament and international security;

3. Urges that the agenda for the First Committee for its forty-ninth and subsequent sessions will, without prejudice to the possible merger or elimination of specific items, take account of thematic clustering of agenda items, also in the event of reallocation to the First Committee of items from Main Committees and the Plenary of the General Assembly;

4. Recommends further that steps be undertaken in order to reassess the multilateral arms control and disarmament machinery, including on ways and means to enhance the functioning and efficiency of the First Committee;

5. Requests the Chairman of the First Committee to continue consultations on the further rationalization of the work and the effective functioning of the Committee, taking into account resolutions, views and proposals presented to the First Committee;

6. Urges the Secretary-General to take concrete steps to give the appropriate means and resources to the Centre for Disarmament Affairs in order to ensure that it can carry out its mandated tasks; (NAM op 3)

7. Requests the Secretary-General to report on those steps to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session (NAM op 4);

8. Decides to review the further rationalization of the First Committee at its forty-ninth session.

II. Reform of the agenda of the First Committee

(1) Recalling Article 11 (1) of the Charter stipulating that the General Assembly may consider the general principles of cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security, including the principles governing disarmament and the regulation of armaments, and may make recommendations with regard to such principles, (cf. Nepal pp 3)

(2) Bearing in mind the crucial contribution which progress in the field of disarmament, arms control, non-proliferation, transparency in arms transfers and confidence-building measures can make to the maintenance of international peace and security, (Russia pp 7)

(3) Reaffirming the continued validity of the traditional arms control and disarmament agenda, which reflects many substantive issues requiring further attention,

(4) Anticipating that the efforts of rationalizing the agenda of the First Committee will result in offering more time to deal with new challenges which also need to be addressed urgently,

(5) Noting that the general debate in the First Committee is increasingly focusing on questions of global and regional security, conflict prevention, and

confidence-building, thus drawing attention to the interrelationship between these questions and further progress in the field of arms control and disarmament,

(6) Recalling its resolutions 47/120 A, of 18 December 1993, and 47/120 B, of 20 September 1993, which address, inter alia, a number of topics falling into the purview of the Disarmament and International Security Committee,

(7) Recalling in particular its decision in resolution 47/120 A "to explore ways and means to support the recommendations of the Secretary-General in his report 'An Agenda for Peace' to promote the utilization of the General Assembly, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, by Member States so as to bring greater influence to bear in pre-empting or containing any situation which is potentially dangerous or might led to international friction or dispute", (Quote from 47/120 A VII op 1)

(8) Welcoming that the Centre for Disarmament Affairs is examining ways and means to apply the tools and techniques of disarmament, arms limitation and confidence-building to the United Nations efforts to maintaining international peace and security, (cf. USG Goulding's speech)

(9) Also welcoming the Centre's re-evaluation of the work of its three regional centres in the light of new opportunities on a regional basis, (cf. USG Goulding's speech)

(10) Emphasizing the need for further enhancing cooperative multilateralism as a basis for international peace and security, (from CWC-Res.'92)

(11) Affirming its conviction that all Member States should endorse and support the role given by the Charter to the Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security, (Russia pp 11)

1. Reaffirms that with the end of the cold war and of bipolar confrontation, the United Nations faces new tasks in the area of maintaining international peace and security; (Russia op 1)

2. Emphasizes its commitment to preventive diplomacy and the need to develop appropriate political mechanisms for early solution of disputes and for timely and peaceful resolution of any situation which might impair friendly relations among States, so as to preserve peace and strengthen international security; (Russia op 3)

3. Encourages the First Committee to continue to discuss issues of international peace, security, confidence-building, arms control, and disarmament in a comprehensive manner so as to promote a better understanding of the interrelationship between these issues;

4. Recognizes the validity of the concepts of confidence-building measures, particularly in regions of high tension, balanced security at lower levels of armaments and armed forces as well as the elimination of destabilizing military capabilities and imbalances; (NAM 47/60 A op 5)

5. Calls for regional dialogues, where appropriate, to promote security and economic, environmental, social and cultural cooperation, taking into account the particular characteristics of each region; (NAM 47/60 A op 6)

6. Stresses the importance of global and regional approaches to disarmament, which should be pursued simultaneously to promote regional and international peace and security; (NAM 47/60 A op 7)

7. Requests the First Committee to discuss practical steps on how to integrate disarmament and arms regulation issues into the broader structure of the international peace and security agenda;

8. Also requests the First Committee in this context to examine follow-up action in building upon resolutions 47/120 A and 47/120 B, in particular with regard to preventive diplomacy and related matters, post-conflict peace-building and cooperation with regional arrangements and organizations, while giving due account to the ongoing work on the revitalization of the General Assembly as well as to the established priorities of disarmament;

9. Emphasizes that international peace and security must be seen in an integrated manner and that the efforts of the international community to build peace, justice, stability and security must encompass not only military matters, but also relevant political, economic, social, humanitarian, environmental and developmental aspects; (Russia op 9)

10. Commends the Centre for Disarmament Affairs for its endeavours to examine ways and means to apply the tools and techniques of disarmament, arms limitation and confidence-building to the United Nations efforts to maintain international peace and security;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to report on the results of this work to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session;

12. Recommends that the First Committee, building on the work of the Centre for Disarmament Affairs, also addresses these questions;

13. Further recommends that the First Committee arrange its programme of work within the necessary time-limits in such a way that sufficient time would be allocated for the consideration of the topics elaborated above;

14. Encourages the Conference on Disarmament to seize those topics dealt with in the First Committee in this context which lend themselves for further elaboration and possible negotiation of legal instruments;

15. Decides to review the further reform of the agenda of the First Committee at its forty-ninth session.